

3.0 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

3.1 Introduction

This section describes those components of the existing natural, built, and human environment that would be affected by the alternatives under consideration for salmon and steelhead fisheries in Puget Sound and the Strait of Juan de Fuca that take listed Puget Sound chinook. The ESA defines “take” to mean “to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct” (ESA section 3, Definitions). Fisheries that do not take listed chinook salmon are not considered in this document. Each of the topics required to be addressed by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Washington State Environmental Policy Act were considered when selecting topics for discussion in this section. The issues discussed in this section have been identified as important aspects of the Affected Environment by ~~NOAA Fisheries~~ NMFS, the co-managers, other federal agencies, and/or public comment. Consistent with guidance from the President’s Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) for implementing NEPA, this section provides the most detail and discussion on those issues with the greatest potential to be affected by the Proposed Action and alternatives, and only briefly describes those issues that may be marginally affected (CEQ Regulations at 40 CFR 1502.15). To accurately depict existing conditions, the Affected Environment is described in the context of the 1990s and early 2000s, focusing on the 2000–2001 period.

The Affected Environment section begins with a description of the Puget Sound Action Area and its general environmental setting. Subsections within Section 3 discuss various aspects of the natural, built, and human environment that may be affected by the Proposed Action or alternatives, organized as follows:

Section 3 Subsections	Natural Environment	Built Environment	Human Environment
3.3.1 and 3.3.2: Status of salmonid species	X		
3.3.3: Other fishes	X		
3.3.4: Fish habitat	X		
3.3.5 through 3.3.7: Potential ecological effects of current harvest activities	X		
3.4: Tribal treaty rights and trust responsibilities			X
3.5: Non-commercial use of salmonids by Puget Sound tribes			X
3.6: Regional economics of commercial and sport fisheries			X
3.7: Environmental justice			X
3.8.1 through 3.8.3 and 3.8.5: Seabirds, marine mammals, and other wildlife species	X		
3.8.4: Lower trophic-level species	X		
3.9: Land ownership and land use		X	
3.10: Water quality	X		